

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

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JANUARY 13, 2009

NEWS NOTES

Retirees meet for breakfast

Tobyhanna retirees will meet from 8-10 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the Perkins, Route 315 in Pittston. Meetings are scheduled for Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, and Dec. 16. For more information, contact Bernie Petrasek, bjpetra@juno.com.

Quality poster blitz emerges

Personnel in the Quality Management Division, Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate will spearhead a quality poster blitz this year. The posters, which will be displayed throughout the depot, are designed to salute war veterans and inform employees on the importance of adding quality to the product.

For more information, call Larry Bulanda, division chief, X59822.

Federal benefits open season

Federal employees can make belated open season enrollment changes to their Federal Employees Health Benefits, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance, and Federal Flexible Spending Account programs through Jan. 31. Employees using the belated election opportunity must contact a benefits counselor at the Army Benefits Center — Civilian (ABC-C), 1-877-276-9287, TDD 1-877-276-9833. Employees will not be able to make belated open season changes through Employee Benefits Information System by computer.

For more information, call Joanne Everett, X56026; Kristi-Jo Noel; X56664 or Jodi Chiodo, X56151.

MLK prayer breakfast set

The 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast will be held Thursday. Breakfast will be served in the Post Restaurant, Building 11, beginning at 6:30 a.m. and the program is at 7 a.m. Tickets cost \$5 and are available in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, X56172.

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Firefinder processor tests successful

Verification exercise preps radar for rollout of new equipment

by Jennifer Caprioli
Staff Writer

Testing conducted here last month may soon give warfighters even more reliable Firefinder radar systems.

Tobyhanna personnel helped to test and verify new, state of the art common processors for the AN/TPQ -36 and -37 Firefinder radar systems here.

On Dec. 8, personnel from Product Manager (PM) Radars headed a fault insertion and technical manual verification at the depot. The verification employed the expertise of Soldiers and Marines from Fort Sill, Okla., and members of various organizations, including the Logistics Readiness Center (LRC), Fire Software Engineering Division, and Tobyhanna.

The four-day verification exercise, which prepared the radar for the rollout of the new common processor, was successful, stated Joe Raymer, who monitored and provided assistance with the verification and validation. He is an electronics engineer in the Production Engineering Directorate's Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Engineering Branch.

The processor computes data from the radar and determines which targets to display to the warfighter.

The project began in 2006 when personnel from PM Radars identified the need to upgrade the current processor.

The new processors will make the radar systems more reliable. It reduces the logistic footprint of the radars by replacing a 128-circuit card radar processor (RP) in the AN/TPQ-37 and a nine-circuit card RP in the AN/TPQ-36, with a four-circuit card RP in each. The upgrade will significantly reduce the time spent by depot technicians in troubleshooting and repairing the processor, explained Raymer.

Also included in the upgrades are improvements to the processor to address parts obsolescence, false targets reductions and cost issues.

"The new radar processor is less expensive so we're able to provide two processors to



Staff Sgt. Joshua Nunley (left), and Joe Raymer, electronics engineer, perform a fault insertion and technical manual verification on the AN/TPQ-36 radar processor. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

the user. If one fails, they can swap it out with a new one in about 15 minutes," Raymer noted. Processors in need of repair are sent to the depot.

PM Radars personnel received positive feedback from the preliminary in-theater testing that took place in December 2007, noted Mark Vizthum, an electronics engineer from PM Radars who participated in the exercise. The new processor also extends the mean time between failures (MTBF) and system lock-ups which was confirmed during the in-theater testing. The current processor MTBF is about 1,000 hours, whereas the new processor MTBF is projected to be more than 12,000 hours.

The radar systems, which are deployed to locations that include Southwest Asia, Germany and throughout the Continental United States, locate the position of hostile mortars, rockets and artillery. The TPQ-36 is composed of an operation shelter mounted on a Humvee and a trailer that houses a radar Antenna Transceiver Group (ATG). The TPQ-37 consists of an operation shelter mounted on a Humvee, a 5-ton truck and a trailer-mounted ATG System.

The purpose of the verification was to ensure that the processor and manuals were

ready or worthy of fielding, explained Victor Rodriguez, PM Radars TPQ -36 assistant product manager.

Personnel from Fort Sill represented the users in the field who verify that the radar works as well as or better than the current processor. "Our job is to make sure that the system is worthy for fielding," noted Raymer.

Depot personnel began testing in May by performing comparison tests between the new and old processor, and software.

The analysis of the testing will confirm the operational and self-testing capability of the processor, explained Chief Warrant Officer 4 Vincent Noel, Fort Sill. He observed during the week and will take part in the final decision to field the new processor.

Rodriguez and Raymer describe Noel's team of military members from Fort Sill as the best of the best, based on their technical background.

"We completed a preliminary radar performance test each morning," said Noel. "Software tests must be done before we begin the fault insertion test."

A test plan and manuals help determine

See FIREFINDER on Page 6

Senior leaders go back to school

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Around the Depot

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2009 pay scales available

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Deputy commanding general praises depot uniqueness, employee competence

Larry Tompkins briefs Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), on capacity management tools within the Logistics Modernization Program system. Tompkins is a planner in the Production Management Directorate. His presentation was part of a briefing on the depot’s Logistics Modernization Program/Master Production Schedule Shop Perspective in the Tactical Satellite section of the Tactical End Item Repair Facility. Also listening are, from left, Terry Edwards, AMC’s chief information and technology officer, and Lane Collie, principal deputy, AMC Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Pillsbury and the AMC officials, who included Ron Lewis, AMC’s director of Enterprise Integration, and Maj. Richard Hall, aide-de-camp, were here Jan. 7 and 8 for briefings about Tobyhanna’s missions and tours of several facilities. In addition to the Logistics Modernization Program, Pillsbury was briefed on programs such as the Depot Maintenance of the Future, computer aided engineering and the Lightweight Countermortar Radar simulator. Pillsbury also participated in an awards ceremony for Security personnel Edward Kilduff, Jesse Van Orden and Mario Gonzalez, the AMC Disabled Employee of the Year award to Laura Dumback, and the NATO Medal and Army Achievement Medal to Peter Marsicano. Dumback is a supply technician in the Production Management Directorate and Marsicano is an electronics mechanic in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate. “There’s nothing in the Department of Defense like Tobyhanna,” Pillsbury commented at the awards ceremony. “Nobody does it better than you, nobody. You cannot judge the importance of your effort to the warfighter by the proximity to the shooting. You all touch the Soldier every day by your product.” (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)

STAY TUNED
Local media announce
weather delays, closures



Television stations

WNEP, Channel 16
WYOU, Channel 22
WBRE, Channel 28

AM radio stations

WAEB, 790 (Allentown)
WARM, 590 (Scranton)
WKAP, 1470 (Allentown)
WEJL (ESPN), 630 (Scranton)
WILK, 910/980 (Pittston)
WICK, 1400 (Scranton)

FM radio stations

WAEB, 104.1 (Allentown)
WKAB, 103.5 (Berwick)
WMGS, 92.9 (Scranton)
WKRZ, 98.5 (Pittston)
WGGY, 101.3 (Pittston)
WWDL, 105 (Scranton)
WEZX, 106.9 (Scranton)

Winter weather often produces hazardous conditions that may impact the depot’s operational status. Public announcements regarding depot closings or starting time delays will be provided to local television and radio stations, and recorded on a toll free information hotline. Employees are encouraged to tune in to the media outlets listed below or call 1-800-429-4496 to hear the recorded announcement.

Pillsbury takes post as AMC
deputy commanding general

by Felicia Thompson
AMC Public Affairs

Bold, loving and sensible are just a few of the words used to describe the new deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command during a promotion ceremony conducted at AMC headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 15.

Maj. Gen. James H. Pillsbury was promoted to lieutenant general in the presence of many friends, family, colleagues, and mentors. One of those people is the newly promoted four-star general, Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of AMC.

Dunwoody presided over the ceremony and said it was a great day for our Army and for AMC because of Pillsbury’s advancement.

“Today will go down as a very special day for our Army because we are promoting a great leader and a Soldier of passion, purpose and principle,” Dunwoody said. “[You] are a respected logistician, a first-class aviator, a master communicator, and, most important to me - a valued friend.”

Friendship and saying “thank you” to many of the non-commissioned officers, who have helped Pillsbury over the last 35 years become the leader he is today, were central themes in his acceptance speech. The speech also provided insight as to the type of leader he will be and the expectations he has of the AMC staff whose job it is to care for the warfighter out in the field. Pillsbury referenced an enlisted Soldier who relies on AMC’s Soldiers and civilians to complete their mission.

“I always think about Sgt. 1st Class Dalton before I sign anything. Only bring a piece of paper in to me to sign if it helps Sgt. Dalton do his job in the motor pool or on the flightline, then I’ll sign it,” Pillsbury said. “You must have that Soldier in your thoughts at all times. You do, and that’s the power of this organization.”

Pillsbury also acknowledged and thanked the many AMC’s civilian staff members present at the ceremony.

“The strength of our organization is its civilian leadership because you all do the heavy lifting each and every day,” Pillsbury said. “We have the best of the best working for AMC.”

Pillsbury stressed his vision for AMC as he concluded his speech: “We are going to continue to push this readiness enterprise ... and make this materiel life cycle enterprise work best for Sgt. Dalton because Sgt. Dalton deserves it. Not because it’s something new and change is going to have to happen anyway, it’s because our nation is looking for us to do it and Gen. Dunwoody has given us the azimuth.”

Pillsbury assumed the duties as deputy commanding general of AMC on Dec. 8.

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense.

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The Tobyhanna Reporter staff can also be reached by electronic mail using the following addresses:

Anthony.Ricchiazzi@us.army.mil
Jacqueline.Boucher@us.army.mil
Jennifer.M.Caprioli@us.army.mil

Commander, Col. Ron Alberto
Public Affairs Officer, Kevin M. Toolan
Editor, Anthony J. Ricchiazzi
Assistant Editor, Jacqueline R. Boucher
Staff Writer, Jennifer M. Caprioli
Photographers, Anthony S. Medici, Steve Grzezdinski



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TEAM
TOBYHANNA
EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONICS

THANKS

To everyone who reached out to us in sympathy on the loss of our beloved mother and grandmother, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your kindness and support have meant very much to us during a most difficult and sorrowful time. Again, thank you for your thoughts, prayers and, most of all, your friendship.

Sincerely,
Barbara Burak, Vicki Smirne, Melia Smirne

I’d like to thank the person who found my pearl necklace Dec. 12 and turned it in to security. It was given to me as a gift from my mother and holds more sentimental value than you can imagine. Your honesty was truly appreciated.

Nadine Scheller-Blasko,
Chief, Customer Support Division
Information Management Directorate

AMC program teaches directors, managers new ways to do business

by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna senior leaders are discovering new ways to improve business processes with the help of an Army Materiel Command (AMC) executive development program.

The Depot & Arsenal Executive Leadership Program (DAELP) is a six-month course that provides a learning environment to help commanders and senior leaders gain a broader knowledge of leadership and management techniques.

“The program provides a great overview of how the depots and arsenals operate and fit into the overall AMC business,” said Rick Shuleski, director of Resource Management. “It also provides a great opportunity to network with other executives within the command as well as other service components.”

DAELP participants from military and civilian facilities undertake a comprehensive curriculum designed to equip them to lead organizational change and business process improvement. The program’s faculty members are selected from schools and universities, private sector organizations and the military services.

The curriculum is an integrated program of in-residence classroom sessions at the University of North Carolina, a duty station project and a corporate residency in the private sector. The program’s components include five weeks of academic residency, one week dedicated to on-site depot/arsenal/industry visits, interspersed with a series of residencies at the participant’s duty station and four weeks with a leading private sector corporation. Members of the 2008-2009 class participated in a site visit here Dec. 18.

Information and lessons learned shared by participants accentuate the learning experience, according to several Tobyhanna DAELP alumni.

“I believe the exposure to the many different leadership and management styles and practices was by far the most important aspect of this program,” said Terrance Hora, director of Systems Integration and Support. “The classroom and practical experiences provided each leader with differing and sometimes competing philosophies and views of leadership.”

Pat Esposito agrees. “You have 25 leaders in the classroom that are expressing their views and experiences on a lot of the same issues you are experiencing on a daily basis,” he said, adding that the program “opens you up to new ideas and concepts” for continual process improvement. Esposito is the director of Production Management.

In addition to in-class sessions with faculty, other DAELP activities include simulations, case studies, project learning and corporate site visits. Participants are also introduced to Lean Six Sigma, aspects of manufacturing, operations and supply chain management. Near the end of the program, instructors focus on human resource management, work force performance, and the legal and financial aspects of managing large government, civilian-based organizations.

DAELP participants also learn first-hand the processes used by civilian companies during the corporate residency. Tobyhanna’s directors and managers were partnered with leading private sector firms to study how corporate realities such as organizational strategy and change management, operations and service quality, financial metrics and market drivers play a role in the private sector. Participants can then compare private sector practices to their own duty station environment and apply lessons learned to their own organizations.

“While at Warner Robins, [Air Force Base, Ga.] I observed people using tracking systems for tracking tools in shared toolboxes and brought it back to the depot,” said Suzanne Rudat, Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate’s deputy director. “We first implemented the system in Firefinder and it’s been adopted in other areas since then.”

After attending DAELP, Hora also shared information with depot organizations and was instrumental in developing a plan to reorganize the Business Management Directorate.

“I was able to expand my knowledge of business development and marketing while learning a great deal about how industry captures and develops business opportunities,” Hora said of his partnering with the Lockheed Martin Corporation. “The ability to deliver what is promised creates strong customer satisfaction and



From left, Col. Dan Mitchell, Red River Army Depot (RRAD) commander, Ted Sturgeon, DAELP program director, Sgt. Maj. Tony Butler, Anniston Army Depot, and Teresa Weaver, RRAD Resource Management Directorate, tour depot work areas Dec. 18. Members of the 2008-2009 DAELP class participated in the on-site visit as part of a AMC executive development program.

new business opportunities. Delivering reliable products and services at cost and hitting milestones on schedule are essential to high customer satisfaction and the future of Tobyhanna,” he said.

The corporate visits reinforce what is taught in the classroom, according to Shuleski. “These are world-class organizations where you can observe the processes and concepts in use in an industry environment,” he said. “I learned that our operation is very similar to private industry and that these organizations deal with the same challenges we do.” Shuleski partnered with BAE Systems during his residency and visited four of their work sites.

Maintaining a competitive edge in today’s business world is vital to the success of any organization, according to Hora. The SIS director also believes that motivated employees will help an organization achieve its business goals and objectives.

“At DAELP, I learned the importance of leadership in crafting a vision of the organization and driving an understanding of that vision to all levels,” Hora said. “Effective leaders in a large organization need to be strong problem solvers, self-motivated, creative and always keep the best interests of the enterprise in mind. They must also be able to motivate the whole team and work with cross-functional teams



On-site depot/arsenal/industry visits let DAELP participants compare practices and apply lessons learned to individual organizations. (Photos by Steve Grzezdinski)

both internally and externally,” he said.

DAELP offers senior leaders the opportunity to network with their peers, learn in a classroom environment and then work alongside heads of industry during a corporate internship.

“My internship with IBM gave me the opportunity to communicate with some of the top experts in the areas of fiscal responsibility, supply chain management, SAP, and human capital management,” Esposito said, explaining that the experience helped him gain a different perspective on better business practices applied to the private sector. “We have to work very hard to stay competitive with these other organizations.”

Earnings potential over \$75,000. (Individual earnings depend on length of deployment, grade/step, actual hours worked, etc.)

SWA volunteers sought

Volunteers needed for deployment in Southwest Asia (SWA)
Several types of positions are available—electronics and non-electronics related

TYPES OF SKILLS NEEDED

- Knowledge of radio frequency propagation/troubleshooting
 - Knowledge of basic wiring
 - Knowledge of metal fabrication
- Knowledge of Windows-based computer programs

INTERESTED EMPLOYEES SHOULD CONSULT WITH THEIR SUPERVISOR AND
E-MAIL JANICE SHAFFER IN THE TOBYHANNA CPAC AT JANICE.SHAFFER@US.ARMY.MIL.

- Ability to obtain and hold a Secret clearance
- A deployment normally lasts 179 days but could be extended.
- Deployment location could be Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and/or other locations in SWA.
- Work schedule is typically 7 days per week, 12 hours per day.
- 35 percent Foreign Post Differential and 35 percent Danger Pay paid on base pay.
- Extensive overtime

Scope of logistics mission extends from NEPA mountains to warzone

by **Jacqueline Boucher**
Assistant Editor

Tobyhanna's ability to make on-site repairs to communications-electronics equipment extends the scope of its maintenance and logistics mission from the mountains of Pennsylvania to the deserts of Southwest Asia.

Hundreds of depot employees deploy each year to more than 20 Forward Repair Activity (FRA) facilities to support expeditionary logistics missions in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Military members from all branches of service depend on Tobyhanna's skilled technicians to fix systems and components damaged in the hostile environment.

"We have the capability to move a very flexible, adaptable, and responsive workforce where it needs to be when it needs to be there," depot commander Col. Ron Alberto said, pointing out that a large percentage of the depot's workforce works outside the installation. Tobyhanna has a worldwide net of more than 65 FRAs.

Tobyhanna volunteers support various repair missions: Firefinder radars, Warlock electronic countermeasures, communications security (COMSEC) systems, and command, control and computers (C3). The depot also provides embedded support to the Army's intelligence system, Guardrail. These war zone initiatives are directed by officials in three directorates with deployment lengths averaging six months.

It seems Tobyhanna has found a way to build an FRA around any mission, according to John Parada, C3/Avionics Directorate's FRA Division support program manager. "We have the skills here to run the gamut allowing us to send

teams anywhere to do anything," he said.

The repair activity's main objective is to provide a quick turnaround on repairs while eliminating costly shipping charges, according to James Kondratick, COMSEC FRA project officer. To date, sites have received and processed 18,546 in-field repairs or direct exchanges.

"We have outstanding individuals representing the depot and supporting the men and women engaging the terrorists threatening our way of life," said Kondratick. "Whatever it takes, we do it."

He explained that technicians repair, test and modify secure communications equipment in customized shop vans. They also provide direct exchange services for equipment that cannot be repaired in a reasonable amount of time. The vans that support all FRAs are shipped from Tobyhanna fully loaded with tools, test equipment and parts.

"We often see Soldiers covered in sand with an M-16 slung over one shoulder," said Chuck Bartleson, electronics mechanic, adding that his sense of accomplishment from working on one item for a waiting warfighter is equal to working on 100 components at the depot. Bartleson speaks from experience, having deployed twice for a total of 14 months.

A month-long training course prepares COMSEC volunteers for deployment. The course covers mission, security, accountability, and shipping information. Individuals must also complete a certification course which enables them to repair COMSEC equipment.

Randy Nielson is participating in his third deployment supporting the COMSEC mission. "You'll never do anything more personally rewarding, but think long



Joe Costanza, right, shows a Soldier how to navigate through the on-board biometric screens of the Handheld Interagency Identification Detection Equipment (HIIDE) device. HIIDEs are portable devices that combine iris, fingerprint and face biometrics to help determine an individual's identity. Biometrics is the science and technology of measuring and analyzing biological data. HIIDEs are being used to identify Iraqi and Afghani citizens to distinguish friend from foe. Costanza, a production controller in Tobyhanna's Production Management Directorate, deployed to Iraq and is assigned to the 1st Armored Division. (U.S. Army photo)

and hard, and consider the sacrifices involved," he said, explaining that even though he has missed birthdays and anniversaries, his wife continues to back him 100 percent. Nielson is a team leader in Iraq.

Tobyhanna's Firefinder Systems Division supports repair activities in Iraq and Afghanistan. Technicians support the AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 systems, component level

See LOGISTICS on Page 7

Fluid system fills Lean, environmental practices

by **Jennifer Caprioli**
Staff Writer

A new vehicle fluid system saves time, focuses on Lean Six Sigma (LSS) concepts and is better for the environment.

About 20 employees from the Tactical Vehicle Branch work in Building 14 during two shifts to repair and maintain vehicles associated with C4ISR systems that are supported by the depot. The branch is part of the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Industrial Services Division.

A Fluid Distribution System installed in the building in early November 2008 accommodates technicians during vehicle maintenance. Installation of the system is the result of an effort to create an environment that focuses on reducing potential leaks and spills in coordination with the tools of Lean Six Sigma, which identifies various waste in the process such as injuries, excessive inventory, waiting and unnecessary movement, says Bill Muchal, branch chief.

A key component of Lean Six Sigma is the use of "6S," which is an acronym that describes the steps in organizing a work area for maximum efficiency- sort, straighten, scrub (clean-up), safety, standardize and sustain. This system helps achieve a "fully 6S organization" explains Brad Jones, chief of the Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate.

The \$112,000 structure is a closed, one-location system that dispenses 15W40 motor oil, Dextron III (transmission fluid), 80-90 gear oil and antifreeze to four vehicle stations

located throughout the building. At least two vehicles can be parked at each station for service.

Each type of fluid has a designated line that comes out of four main containers, and branches off to each station. The containers hold up to 250 gallons, or four 55-gallon barrels of liquid.

Vehicle stations include four heavy duty hose reels with 100 feet of hose on each reel. Fluid is dispensed using an electronic preset measuring valve, equipped with a non-drip nozzle. A touch pad enables technicians to enter the amount of the designated liquid to be dispensed, allowing for a precise measurement, says Richard Drake, a general equipment mechanic in the branch.



Patrick Bakaysa, general equipment repairer, uses a pump system to transfer 80-90 gear oil from a 55-gallon drum into the holding tank. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)

The previous system consisted of a central station of four large containers (for each type of fluid) where employees would fill a smaller container and transport it back to their station.

Eliminating the small transportation containers allowed personnel to remove two carts that housed the containers, creating more open floor space in the bay.

"The system saves time because [technicians] aren't walking from the vehicle station over to the dispensing station and back," says Muchal. "The pump is right there at their station."

Personnel identified waste that could cause injuries and noted the possibility of spilling fluids while transporting open containers.

"The new system is safer and better for the environment because all liquid is self-contained, and transportation of small containers has been eliminated," says Drake. "Since it [the system] eliminates the use of containers, they won't be placed on benches and accidentally knocked down."

Another addition to the procedure is a waste oil collection funnel/basin and an as-needed pipeline which enables a technician to pour used oil from inside the shop to an existing external 300 gallon double-walled tank, located outside of the building. Prior to this implementation, technicians manually transported the waste oil outside and poured it into the external tank.

"This reduces the risk for spills of petroleum, oil, and lubricants outside, on the ground or in the nearby storm drain," says Randy Didier. "Additionally, it will improve used oil recycle volume." Didier is chief of the Industrial Risk Management Directorate's Environmental Management Division.

"An electronic tank gauge and high tank level audible alarm indicates the waste tank level, alerting employees when the tank is full from inside the shop," notes Muchal. This will also standardize the procedure for disposing of waste oil.

The Fluid Distribution System implements Lean initiatives, focuses on ergonomics, creates more space and reduces man hours, says Muchal.

Muchal foresees that the new system will help technicians repair the vehicles in less time, which will ultimately help "get the systems out the door faster."

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS AROUND THE DEPOT

Welding Branch

Systems Integration
and Support Directorate

The branch's 18 employees weld fabricated components supporting several missions—Blue Force Tracking (BFT), Power Distribution Illumination systems, electronic shelters and vans, Mine Resistant Ambush Protectant Brackets (MRAP), large antennas for communications systems, and housings for missile control subsystems.



Trevor Gruber, welding worker, welds a prototype for Mine Resistant Ambush Protectant (MRAP) brackets.



Thomas Kanios, welding worker, installs a fixture to attach lower mounts to a BFT rack.



Equipment Specs

Branch personnel use state-of-the-art equipment such as welding machines, handcutting and brazing torches, plasma cutting machines, and a modular fixturing table to work on thousands of components annually. Each welding booth is equipped with an air flow system to remove harmful fumes and dust from the work area.



Kevin Handelong, welding worker, preps the top shelf of a BFT rack before welding.



Gruber assembles a Duke antenna pull-down bracket for an MRAP.



Jon Dwyer, welder, gathers Power Distribution Illumination box parts for assembly and welding.



Robin Lee, welder, preps the lower shelf of a BFT rack before welding.

Photos by Steve Grzedzinski



The welding branch production area.



Kanios welds lower mounts to a BFT rack.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- **Wind Gap, surrounding area:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9 both Fridays, starts at Country Junction, contact Jim Rose, X56602, or email jim.rose2@us.army.mil.
- **Brodheadsville, Palmerton, West End:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, both Fridays, contact Keith Orach, X56249 or keith.orach@us.army.mil.
- **Peckville, Olyphant:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., door-to-door pickup, both Fridays, call Andy, X57930.
- **Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., both Fridays, starts at the William Penn Expressway park and ride, call Ed Estrada, X58751.
- **Jim Thorpe:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, nonsmoking, 5/4/9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., house-to-house pickup, X57385.
- **Mountain Top, White Haven:** 1 opening, available Jan. 31, van #262, leaves Mr. Zs in Mountain Top at 5:45 a.m. and travels to White Haven and Route 940 to the depot, \$120 monthly voucher, call Dale Stine, X57815.
- **White Haven:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, nonsmoking, 5/4/9, call Dave Swankosky, X59467.
- **Dunmore:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., both Fridays, meets at the Big Lots parking lot, call Tim Knabel, X59985.
- **Back Mountain, Dallas, Trucksville, Shavertown, Harveys Lake:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, both Fridays, nonsmoking, "A" placard, meets at Shavertown Thomas's Market pickup, call Mike, X59019.
- **Freeland, surrounding area:** 1 opening, van, pickup points are in Freeland and White Haven, third shift, contractors welcome, call Bob Burke, X57833 or contact Bob Tichy, X59069, robert.j.tichy@us.army.mil.
- **Wilkes Barre:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, both Fridays, call James Eiden, X58693.
- **Dunmore:** 1 opening, available Feb. 1, van, nonsmoking, 5/4/9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., house-to-house pickup, both Fridays, call Thomas Stasko, X57930.
- **Windgap:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, both RDOs, starts at the Country Junction, contact Jim Rose, X56602 or jim.rose2@us.army.mil.
- **Childs:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, both Fridays, call Laura, X57240.
- **Dickson City:** openings, van, 7 passengers, nonsmoking, 5/4/9, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m., shared driving, house-to-house pickup, call Dave Stevens, X59065.
- **New Jersey, Route 80, Water Gap area:** join or start a carpool with people who live in New Jersey and travel Route 80 Westbound in the morning, call Robin, X57345.
- **House:** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, double wide, in Bear Creek Twp., 1,150 sq. ft., private well/septic, 40-ft. porch, new roof, oil tanks, water pressure tank and electric water heater, almost 1/2 acre, private road, gas stove, shed/storage building, \$72,900, owner financing available, call 709-2152.
- **Wood stove:** Citation wood and coal stove, gray/black, 7-inch flue in back, \$350 and 15 sections of 24-inch black pipe, new, never used, T-pipe and cap, \$150, call 610-381-7147.
- **Tickets:** 2 for Wizard of Oz, Scranton Cultural Center, Saturday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m., seats are located in mezzanine row B, seats 105 and 107, asking \$120 for both; 2 for Sweeney Todd, Scranton Cultural Center, 8 p.m., Feb. 14, seats are located in mezzanine row G, seats 102 and 104, asking \$117 for both, call Renee, 587-5672.
- **Misc items:** men's Vagabond leather jacket, rusty brown, 40 long, like new, \$40; original Spanish Hacienda canvas painting, 49x37 1/2 inches, signed by artist Roberto, Kingston, Pa., \$75; 2 brass lamps/white shades, 27 1/2 inches tall, like new, \$15 each, call 430-0684.
- **Gowns:** formal, mother of the bride, size 8, original cost \$300-\$400 each, selling for \$40, call 655-5619.
- **Dog:** mini Dachshund, female, black/tan, longhair, born June 7, weight full grown should be around 7-9 pounds, being kennel trained, must find loving home due to allergies, AKC registered, \$350, call Becky, 344-9910.
- **Car:** 1999 Acura CL 3.0 v-tech, red w/tan leather interior, 40k miles, sunroof, cd/tape, spoiler, heated seats, garage kept, asking \$9,000, call 216-1876.
- **Trailer:** cargo, 6x12 feet, asking \$3,500, and trailer Flast, 6x8 feet, asking \$500, call Steve at 570-711-822-1820 (you must dial 711 first, then the home number).
- **Tires:** 4 tires, size ST205/75D 14, asking \$65, call Bob, 848-1796.

VA officials assist veterans with health care costs

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—For veterans struggling financially due to a job loss or decreased income, Department of Veterans Affairs officials offer an assortment of programs that can relieve the costs of health care or provide care at no cost.

Veterans whose previous income was ruled too high for VA health care may be able to enter the VA system based upon a hardship if their current year's income is projected to fall below federal income thresholds due to a job loss, separation from service or some other financial setback.

Veterans determined eligible due to hardship can avoid co-pays applied to higher-income veterans. Qualifying veterans may be eligible for enrollment and receive health care at no cost.

"With the downturn in the economy, VA recognizes

that many veterans will feel the effects," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "Therefore, it is important that eligible veterans learn of the many ways VA has to help them afford the health care they have earned."

Also eligible for no-cost VA care are most veterans who recently returned from a combat zone. They are entitled to five years of free VA care. The five-year "clock" begins with their discharge from the military, not their departure from the combat zone.

Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide veterans information about these programs. Veterans may also contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.



The AN/TPQ-36 (shown here) and AN/TPQ-37's new radar processor is less expensive, extends the mean time between failures, and will reduce the time spent by technicians when troubleshooting and repairing the system. (Photo by Steve Grzezdinski)

FIREFINDER from Page 1

which faults to insert. The team verifies that the processor indicates the correct fault and manual listed, along with the correct troubleshooting steps to repair the issues.

Personnel from Fort Sill performed a fault insertion test by reviewing and inserting a list of faults into the common processor. Types of faults that were addressed include receiver, transmitter, antenna positioning and radar control status circuit cards.

Rodriguez believes they were able to focus on issues that needed to be addressed because of the support from the depot's technicians and engineering personnel. Future plans include implementing a Modification Work Order by removing the old processor and software and

replacing it with the new processor, replacing the current Ethernet switch and programming the new processors with the innovative software, added Rodriguez.

"We are working toward the development of the entire processor as a team. Because of our involvement we're able locate problems and solutions faster than we have in the past," Raymer noted.

"All parties were, and will continue to be, involved with development, testing, transition and fielding, and sustainment and supportability of this project," added Vizthum.

Rodriguez said that their objective it to field the new radar to the Army as early as March.

NEWS NOTES from Page 1

Stars on Ice coming to NEPA

The Stars on Ice Live show, featuring Sasha Cohen, is coming to the Wachovia Arena on March 26 at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets should call the One Stop Shop, X58851.

Equipment rental special

The Check it Out Center is offering 10 percent off any rental during January. For more information, call X58529.

Childcare announces openings

The Child Development Center has openings for

full-time, part-time or drop-in care, for children ages 1 year and older. Registration is free.

For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Williams, X58113, jenn.williams@us.army.mil or www.tobyhanna.army.mil/community/cys.html to fill out a quick needs survey.

Auto shop offers January special

The Post Auto Service Shop (PASS) will run a special state inspection for \$9.95 during January. Also included in the month's special is emissions testing for \$15.95. The PASS is located in Building 702 and is open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call X57583.

SALARY TABLE 2009																								
Federal Wage System Regular and Special Production Facilitating Wage Rate Schedules for the Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Pa., (N.Y. area)																								
WG	WG-Rates					WL-Rates					WS-WD-WN Rates					WD-WN Pay Level								
WL-WS Grade	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5									
1	14.09	14.67	15.25	15.82	16.43	15.48	16.12	16.78	17.42	18.06	20.41	21.24	22.07	22.95	23.80									
2	14.74	15.37	15.99	16.58	17.22	16.24	16.90	17.58	18.26	18.94	21.10	21.96	22.81	23.71	24.56									
3	15.55	16.20	16.83	17.49	18.14	17.10	17.81	18.52	19.24	19.94	21.88	22.77	23.69	24.59	25.49									
4	16.33	17.01	17.69	18.38	19.04	17.98	18.71	19.46	20.21	20.96	22.65	23.59	24.53	25.46	26.41									
5	17.13	17.83	18.54	19.27	19.96	18.82	19.62	20.41	21.18	21.97	23.38	24.35	25.28	26.31	27.25									
6	17.82	18.57	19.32	20.05	20.81	19.64	20.43	21.27	22.04	22.97	24.00	24.97	25.98	26.98	27.95									
7	18.48	19.27	20.01	20.78	21.55	20.41	21.25	22.05	22.98	23.81	24.67	25.71	26.71	27.77	28.75	5	1							
8	19.16	19.92	20.73	21.51	22.36	21.06	21.92	22.85	23.73	24.62	25.28	26.36	27.41	28.48	29.46	6	2							
9	19.87	20.67	21.48	22.36	23.15	21.80	22.70	23.64	24.55	25.40	25.96	27.09	28.18	29.25	30.35	7	3							
10	20.47	21.33	22.21	23.04	23.90	22.49	23.45	24.43	25.29	26.29	26.62	27.77	28.79	29.93	31.01	8	4							
11	21.15	21.96	22.91	23.79	24.68	23.22	24.18	25.20	26.11	27.14	27.74	28.87	30.04	31.20	32.38	9	5							
12	21.79	22.69	23.63	24.53	25.36	23.98	24.94	25.96	26.95	27.95	29.14	30.36	31.55	32.74	33.98	10	6							
13	22.43	23.40	24.30	25.25	26.23	24.68	25.73	26.77	27.80	28.79	30.54	31.82	33.09	34.34	35.63	11	7							
14	23.05	24.03	25.00	25.98	26.93	25.35	26.42	27.49	28.57	29.66	32.09	33.42	34.78	36.10	37.42	8								
15	23.73	24.73	25.73	26.69	27.74	26.08	27.19	28.32	29.37	30.46	33.89	35.29	36.71	38.11	39.52	9								
											WS-16	35.93	37.41	38.90	40.41	41.90								
											WS-17	38.20	39.80	41.39	42.99	44.58								
											WS-18	40.75	42.45	44.13	45.84	47.53								
											WS-19	39.79	41.45	43.11	44.77	46.42								

SALARY TABLE 2009-N.Y.										
Incorporating the 2.90 percent General Schedule increase and a locality payment of 27.96 percent for the locality pay area of New York, Newark, Bridgeport, NY-NJ-CT-PA. For definitions of locality pay areas visit: http://www.opm.gov/oca/09tables/locdef.asp . Total increase: 4.20 percent (effective January 2009)										
Annual Rates by Grade and Step										
Grade	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	\$ 22,444	\$ 23,194	\$ 23,940	\$ 24,683	\$ 25,429	\$ 25,868	\$ 26,605	\$ 27,349	\$ 27,378	\$ 28,080
2	25,235	25,835	26,669	27,378	27,684	28,498	29,312	30,126	30,939	31,753
3	27,533	28,451	29,368	30,286	31,203	32,121	33,038	33,955	34,873	35,790
4	30,910	31,940	32,970	34,000	35,030	36,060	37,090	38,121	39,151	40,181
5	34,582	35,735	36,888	38,041	39,194	40,347	41,500	42,653	43,806	44,959
6	38,548	39,833	41,117	42,402	43,687	44,972	46,256	47,541	48,826	50,110
7	42,837	44,265	45,693	47,121	48,549	49,977	51,405	52,833	54,261	55,689
8	47,441	49,023	50,604	52,186	53,768	55,349	56,931	58,512	60,094	61,675
9	52,398	54,145	55,892	57,638	59,385	61,132	62,878	64,625	66,372	68,118
10	57,704	59,627	61,550	63,473	65,397	67,320	69,243	71,166	73,089	75,013
11	63,397	65,509	67,622	69,734	71,847	73,960	76,072	78,185	80,297	82,410
12	75,986	78,519	81,051	83,583	86,116	88,648	91,180	93,713	96,245	98,777
13	90,359	93,371	96,383	99,395	102,408	105,420	108,432	111,444	114,456	117,469
14	106,776	110,336	113,896	117,456	121,016	124,575	128,135	131,695	135,255	138,815
15	125,600	129,787	133,974	138,161	142,348	146,535	150,722	153,200 *	153,200 *	153,200 *
* Rate limited to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5304 (g)(1))										

LOGISTICS from Page 4

work, and the AN/TPQ-48 Light Weight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR).

“Our FRA teams demonstrate a high-level of technical competence providing system readiness to our warfighters 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Daniel Shea, Firefinder Systems Division chief, adding that operations are very flexible and extremely versatile.

“Expect to work long hours,” said John Morelli, digital computer mechanic. “But be prepared to gain a lot of personal satisfaction in completing a job well done.” Morelli repairs Standard Army Management Information Systems equipment such as computers and printers.

Tobyhanna employees tackle environmental hazards such as sand, heat and moisture on a daily basis while repairing and testing complex electronic systems and components. And, despite the long hours and austere conditions, everyone agrees there’s no job more rewarding than helping America’s service members.

“This job is very gratifying,” said Scott Beck, supply technician. “The Soldiers need us and we provide a valuable service that makes their difficult job a little easier.”

Beck orchestrates FRA activities for COMSEC operations around the globe. From his desk at the depot, he is able to replenish supplies, fill positions and file reports based on information gathered from the field.

“I know our customers appreciate what we do,” Nielson said. “They tell us all the time.” As team leader, he oversees the day-to-day operation of the shop such as recording transactions, maintaining records, ordering supplies, and managing all shipping and receiving. Nielson noted that it would take weeks or months for Soldiers to get

their equipment repaired or replaced without Tobyhanna FRAs. “With us here, turnaround time is 24 hours or less.”

The depot’s largest FRA operation directs requirements for several C3 programs such as Command Post System & Integration (CPS&I), Air Defense and Airspace Management (ADAM), Counter Rocket Artillery Mortar (CRAM), Common Ground Station (CGS), and Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment (HIIDE).

“This program just keeps growing,” Parada said. “It’s a highly diverse mission and computer repair is only about one-third of the workload.” Support for the warfighters and quicker turn-around is precisely why the depot continues to expand the FRA program,” he added.

An asset of the FRAs specializing in computer repair is that the technicians are certified to work on many of the computer systems that the military uses. In most circumstances, equipment is repaired and returned in less than 24 hours.

“FRAs provide immediate support to the warfighter’s mission critical equipment and training efforts,” said James Ashton, a process improvement specialist embedded with an Army division in Iraq. Ashton travels throughout the country supporting Soldiers in the area of operation where his responsibilities include training troops on the effectiveness of biometrics and HIIDE system user operations.

“I would recommend deployment to anyone seeking personal and job-related satisfaction,” he said. “Our mission is appreciated by all levels and branches of the military.”

“FRAs are manned by the boldest, brightest and best Tobyhanna has to offer,” Kondratick concluded.

CAREER MILESTONE



From left, Herbert Ziegler, Arthur Levin, Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki, David Mrozek, Christian LaBadie, Richard Ondrako attend the Length of Service Awards ceremony held Dec. 17. (Photo by Steve Grzezdzinski)

Five Tobyhanna employees were recognized for their years of government service during the Dec. 17 Length of Service Ceremony.

Richard Ondrako—35 years, electrician, Electrical Fabrication Support Branch, Electronic Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

Christian LaBadie—30 years, electronics mechanic supervisor, Avionics Division, Command, Control and Computer Systems (C3)/Avionics Directorate.

Arthur Levin—30 years, electronic mechanic, Multiple Threat Systems Branch, Range Threat Systems Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

David Mrozek—30 years, electronics mechanic, Avionics Division, C3/Avionics Directorate.

Herbert Ziegler—30 years, training instructor, Technical Development Division, Business Management Directorate.

In addition to their service certificates and pins, employees with 35 years of service receive an engraved mantel clock and 30-year honorees receive a framed American Flag that includes a photo of the depot.

Honorees who attended their Length of Service ceremony also receive a four-hour time-off award. Deputy Commander Frank Zardecki presented the awards.

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Kristen Bagasevich	Tools and parts attendant	D/PM
Charles Corman	Supply technician	D/PM
Johanna Cush	Secretary	D/Comm Sys
Lawrence Gaik	Management analyst	D/PM
Denise Hawk	Secretary	D/PE
Jessica Hicks	Secretary	D/Comm Sys
Katherine Kerr	Secretary	D/PII
Jonathan McBride	Equipment specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Tyrone McKinney	Logistics management specialist	D/PM
Kenneth McQuaide	Electronic integrated system mechanic	D/Comm Sys
Alan Ojeda-Vasquez	Electronics mechanic	D/ISR
Jennifer Oustrich	Secretary	D/PE
Alicia Piercy	Secretary	D/ISR
Lucy Stover	Secretary	D/ISR
Deborah Ward	Secretary	D/CS
Thomas Wychock	Electronics engineer	D/PE

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Click on the customer service link to rate depot support, services



Depot police officers cited for A+ performance

by Jennifer Caprioli
Staff Writer

Two police officers earned honors recognition at Aberdeen Proving Ground Police Academy, Md.

Officers Mario Gonzalez and Jesse Van Orden completed 9 ½ weeks of police academy training. The officers were presented with three of the four awards available to graduates, during their graduation ceremony on Dec. 10.

Gonzalez received the Distinguished Honor Graduate and Physical Fitness awards and Van Orden earned the Academic Honor Graduate Award. They trained with 24 officers from various military bases, including forts Meade, Md.; Monmouth, N.J.; Wainwright, Alaska and Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Both officers attended the training at the academy in order to fulfill one of the job requirements of becoming a police officer.

Van Orden, who began working at the depot in 2005, and Gonzalez, who began in June 2008, were initially hired as security guards. Both studied criminal justice in college and decided to apply for police officer positions during last summer.

Van Orden says he applied for an officer's position because he wants to obtain as much training as possible, and then decided to volunteer to attend training at the academy. "Learning more information makes me feel safe by knowing that I have the knowledge to respond to different situations."

The Academic Honor Graduate Award is determined through classroom and practical situation tests focused on the course material presented. The course contained classroom and hand-on instruction, and materials covered included the 4th and 5th amendment, how to write reports, traffic stop procedures, building and vehicle searches, and simulations.

The Distinguished Honor Graduate Award is determined by combining points earned for academic, physical fitness and top gun (shooting portion) performance.

There are four aspects of the physical fitness portion of the training, which include push-ups and sit-ups, and a 300-meter and 1 ½ mile run. Points are added up to help determine which graduate earns the Physical Fitness Award.

"I believe that it's crucial for someone in law enforcement to be in the best shape possible," says Gonzalez. "It's one of the main aspects and necessary to keep in good health."

He also believes that his prior military experience as an Army sergeant, and as a police officer in Ocean City, Md.

helped him earn the two awards.

Within the first month after arriving at the depot, all incoming security guards and police officers undergo an extensive training curriculum which includes, but is not limited to, firearms qualification, common task testing, Pennsylvania vehicle code, and pepper spray and extendable police baton certification. "Officers who do not have an accredited academy under their belt must attend the academy," noted Sergeant James Vones.

"The training will help with tasks performed here such as working at the entrance gates searching vehicles, traffic stops on post, felony stops, writing a report for, responding to, and engaging in, a situation," explained Van Orden.

Gonzalez says he learned that things aren't as easy as they look. The biggest challenge was experiencing different situations, such as being pepper sprayed or shot at with

Simunition rounds (similar to paintball and used for realistic training), that prepared officers for real-life scenarios, he explained.

"Everything they have learned is going to enhance what they do here and is going to rub off on some of the other officers. By watching [Gonzalez and Van Orden], others are going to look at them as leaders and learn from them," explains Lt. Louis Pistella, depot supervisory police officer.

"The training will help me with job in many ways, from enforcing the requirements for a vehicle to enter the gate, to responding to alarms and being more aware of my surroundings," Gonzalez noted.

"[Gonzalez and Van Orden] did a good job. For them to earn three of the awards is a tribute to their work ethic and drive," Vones added. "We're setting the standard high."



Officers Jesse Van Orden (left) and Mario Gonzalez graduated from Aberdeen Proving Ground Police Academy on Dec. 10, earning three out of the four awards available to graduates. (Photo by Steve Grzedzinski)



Opening loss eclipsed by championship

ASD won the Noontime Softball League championship for the second consecutive year when they defeated Engineering in the championship series, 4 games to 2. The two teams played last year for the championship. ASD won the final game 5-0. The win erased the 2008 season opening game loss to Engineering (13-5). ASD went into the series with 27 wins, 6 losses and 1 tie. Seated, left to right: Al Fiume, J.R. Richards, Bruce Barrese, Chris Kozak and Frank Hill. Standing, left to right: Dave Benson, John DePrimo, George Kofira (league commissioner), Matt Horvath, Tom Baldacci, Jason Menago (assistant league commissioner), Mike Smith and Rich Wiencek. Absent from photo: Mark Buonomo, Ron Crisafulli, Mark Entwistle, Scott Moore, Randy Transue and Gary Whitelavich. (Photo by Tony Medici)